In April, German police raided the mosque, claiming that it was involved with terrorism. The mosque officials said the organization's days as a focal point of political Islam were over. "This center has developed from a center that was important in the 1990s on allegations that he had tried to form an Islamic political party," said Mr. Himmat. "It's not necessary to have this center." The U.S. terror-funding investigation was enough to end Mr. Himmat's career. He is now deputy director of the Islamic Community of Germany. It is now one of the country's most important Islamic organizations.

Contemporaries and archival records indicate that Mr. Himmat was a driving force behind the mosque's construction. "He was a very, very influential person," said Mr. Ramadan, who succeeded Mr. Himmat after the latter's arrest. The mosque was originally planned to be built in the heart of Munich, but when that location was abandoned, Mr. Himmat persuaded the city to build it in a less central area. At one point, the mosque commission had to hold meetings in various places, said Mr. Namangani, who was the chairman of the commission. "Mr. Himmat was very active," he said.

When the mosque was finally completed, it was the most prominent member to flee abroad. He was Mr. Banna's son-in-law. "He was the most prominent member to leave," said Mr. Ramadan. "He was the leader." Many members were thrown in jail and some were executed. Mr. Ramadan, like others in the Muslim Brotherhood, strongly opposed modern Islamist thinking. He said that "the Brotherhood seemed like a good ally for the U.S." But this collided with other visions of Egypt, especially those imported from the United States. "The Brotherhood became a cornerstone in a network of organizations that had been established in the 1980s," said Mr. Ramadan. "It's a network that has been very, very difficult to break down." The group also became a cornerstone in a network of organizations that have been established in the 1980s, he said. "It's a network that has been very, very difficult to break down." The group has been under investigation by several countries for links to terrorism, he said. "We normally have to deal with this in the context of our demands," he said. "We have to deal with this in the context of our demands for freedom and democracy." 

"Mr. Himmat was the most important figure," said Mr. Ramadan. "He was a very, very influential person." But he also said that the mosque was built on "a lot of money from Saudi Arabia," and that Mr. Himmat "had a lot of influence in the country." Mr. Himmat's influence was so great that he was able to persuade the city to build the mosque in a less central area. "He was a very, very influential person," said Mr. Ramadan. "He was the leader." 

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A rare ground-level look at Cold War spying and a revelatory account of the West's first, disastrous encounter with radical Islam, A Mosque in Munich is as captivating as it is crucial to our understanding the mistakes we are still making in our relationship with Islamists today. Discover the world's research. West Germany played a significant role in the growth of Political Islam in Turkey during the Cold War. By recruiting from among Turkish workers in West Germany, Islamist organizations and the religious communities known as cemaats acquired significant economic revenues, which they used to fund their activities in Turkey.